

EXHIBIT 11
DATE 2.16.07
HB 678

Testimony of Mike Boysza, Carpenters Local 153 and Local 557, on House Bill 678 (Rep. Lange), hearing before the House Taxation Committee, February 16, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Mike Boysza. I am a 34-year member of the Carpenters Union, and am privileged to represent 1,100 workers in Montana.

I am here today to speak in opposition to House Bill 678. With all due respect to fellow union member Rep. Mike Lange, this bill is not good for Montana working families.

As I see it, this bill gives even more money away to corporations who don't need tax relief. Working families – parents, grandparents and children – have been paying the price for tax breaks to out-of-state corporations for years. It's time to put a stop to those tax shifts.

Working people put money back into our state's economy. If we get a little extra money in our pockets, like Governor Brian Schweitzer is proposing through his \$400 rebate to homeowners, we spend it in local grocery stores, restaurants and Main Street businesses. We pay our bills, go to the dentist and invest in home improvements. Our money gets spent in Montana.

On the other hand, out-of-state corporations do not spend their tax relief dollars here. Corporate tax relief goes to out-of-state stockholders and out-of-state corporate headquarters. That does not help Montana's economy.

I'm sure you've heard there's a shortage of skilled workers in Montana. We need to make sure our students have the education they need – in math and science, in particular – in order to become the skilled workers who will continue to build Montana's economy. Rep. Lange's bill does not even increase money for schools, so I would urge you to support education bills that do help our students and local schools.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote "no" on House Bill 678. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Boysza, 2540 S Montana, Butte, Montana 59701